Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages for Ministerial Briefing – February 3, 2022 11:30 AM

- The number of protestors downtown continues to remain low, compared to what we saw this weekend. As of 11:00 this morning, there was actually nobody reported to be on Parliament Hill or Wellington Street, although I expect we will start to see that go about to the couple of hundred we have been seeing each day this week.

- Based on open source reporting, we are expecting those numbers to jump back up this coming weekend, with several convoys appearing to be pulling together to arrive in Ottawa on Saturday February 5th. The exact number of convoys and people is still to be determined.

- There have been references to farm equipment being part of the incoming convoys, and I can advise that there is no bar on these types of vehicles coming into the city – in fact, in the past, there have been convoy demonstrations in the downtown core involving farm equipment.

- As I mentioned yesterday, we are seeing counter-protests starting to take place, and the City of Ottawa has already received applications for three counter-protests planned for Saturday.

- So far, I understand that Ottawa Police have made at least three arrests and have 13 investigations underway.

- From a protective perspective, the return to Parliament continues to go smoothly, with no incidents to note.

- Although there has been some indication by protestors of their intention to drive to Harrington Lake, we have no further information on any trucks or vehicles heading to Chelsea.

[APG]

- I know there have been questions about parking around Wellington and the PMO. In normal times, vehicles are only permitted to stop in order to comply with traffic signals or other activity under the bylaw.

- There is no federal statute that prevents vehicles in this area, and enforcement is through municipal bylaws. The street is not part of the Parliamentary Precinct, nor is the Office of the Prime Minister building.

- If the Prime Minister plans to attend the office, an assessment will be made and work will be done with the partners to mitigate any identified risk. If the risk cannot be mitigated, the RCMP would inform the Prime Minister.

- I understand the frustration of Ottawa residents, City Council, and the Ottawa Police as this situation continues on. However, the most recent information I have is still that Ottawa Police will continue to use a measured approach and continue negotiations with the protest organizers.

- With respect to the situation at the Coutts, Alberta POE, yesterday there was good news when protestors agreed to open one lane in each direction.

- Traffic is moving through the open single lanes in each direction, but traffic is snarled at the RCMP checkpoint, north of Coutts, as there are a number of protestors at that location.

- We are successfully negotiating for a few trucks and others with legitimate reason to travel to Coutts to be allowed through by the protestors.

- For now, our plan is to stabilize the checkpoint and manage traffic flow through there. Efforts are ongoing to engage with the protestors with a view to resolving the situation.

[APG]

Current Statistics – Latest Data (estimates) – 10:51 AM
• No demonstrators are reported to be on Parliament Hill at this time. • No demonstrators on Wellington St.

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